



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

*JULY 28, 2006*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: JON SCHNEIDER

PHONE: (631) 696-6500

### **BISHOP LEADS FIGHT AGAINST SEXUAL PREDATORS**

*Secures Funds for Suffolk PD and Parents for Megan's Law; Congress enacts law targeting online predators*

**Washington, DC**— Congressman Tim Bishop announced new federal funding today for the Suffolk County Police Department and Parents for Megan's Law, a non-profit victims' rights advocacy organization dedicated to preventing and treating childhood sexual abuse, for programs designed to protect children from sexual predators. In addition, Bishop applauded enactment of the "Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act," a bill named for the abducted son of John Walsh, the host of *America's Most Wanted*, that creates a National Sex Offender Registry and strengthens current law to protect children from online predators.

Suffolk County will use the funding to continue operations of its highly successful Internet Crimes Against Children Prevention program. Parents for Megan's Law will use its funding to expand a sex offender e-mail alert notification program.

"We need to do all we can to combat sexual predators who stalk our children," Bishop stated. "I am proud to secure funding so Suffolk County can continue to be a national leader in efforts to protect children. The epidemic of online predators means that distance alone cannot protect our children, which is why I am pleased by passage of the Adam Walsh Act."

The Executive Director of Parents for Megan's Law, Laura Ahearn, attended the Presidential signing of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act and applauded Bishop's support. "Congressman Bishop has demonstrated that the safety of our children is his first priority," Ahearn said. "I commend him for taking swift action to remedy the serious problems parents and the community face when attempting to access valuable information to prevent children from falling prey to sexual predators."

Yesterday marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the abduction of six-year-old Adam Walsh, who was later murdered and for whom H.R. 4472 is named. This bill was unanimously approved by the House of Representatives and sent to President Bush for his signature at a White House ceremony. The law increases penalties for sexual exploitation crimes committed against children through the use of the Internet. It also creates a National Sex Offender Registry with uniform standards for the registration of sex offenders, including a lifetime registration requirement for the most serious offenders.

Bishop has consistently supported legislation to protect children from sexual predators. The federal funding marks the third consecutive grant he has secured for the Suffolk PD's Internet Crimes section and will be used by police to continue an Internet education and safety program in area schools.

The actual grant amounts for Suffolk PD and Parents for Megan's Law will not be available until the House-Senate conference committee reconciles a final version of the bill funding the Department of Justice for fiscal year 2007 later this year. The organizations have requested \$250,000 and \$180,000, respectively. The bill was passed by the House on June 26 and currently awaits further consideration by the U.S. Senate.

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